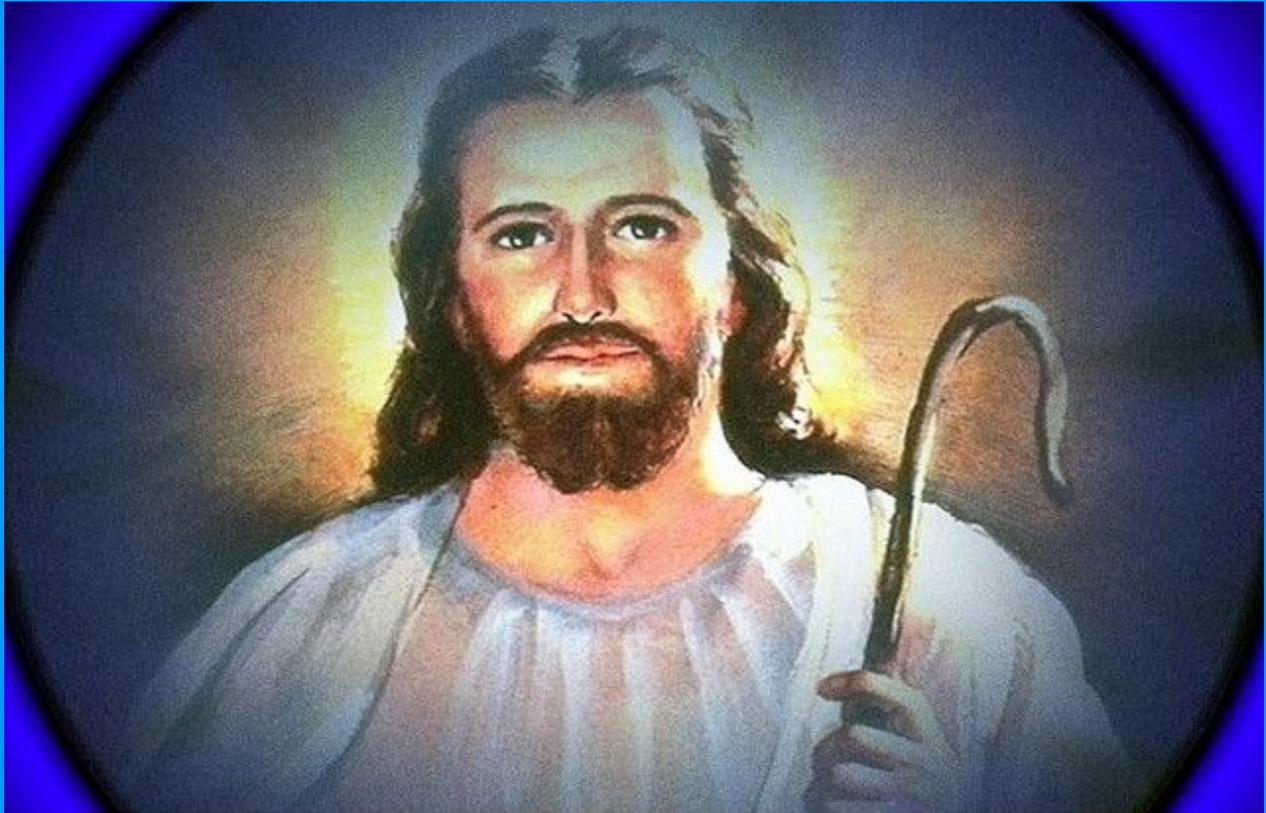




Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

August 2011 Issue 11 Volume 1

(Not For Sale)



"That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love " (Ephesians 3:17)

Blessings of God be yours...



Jesus The Lord

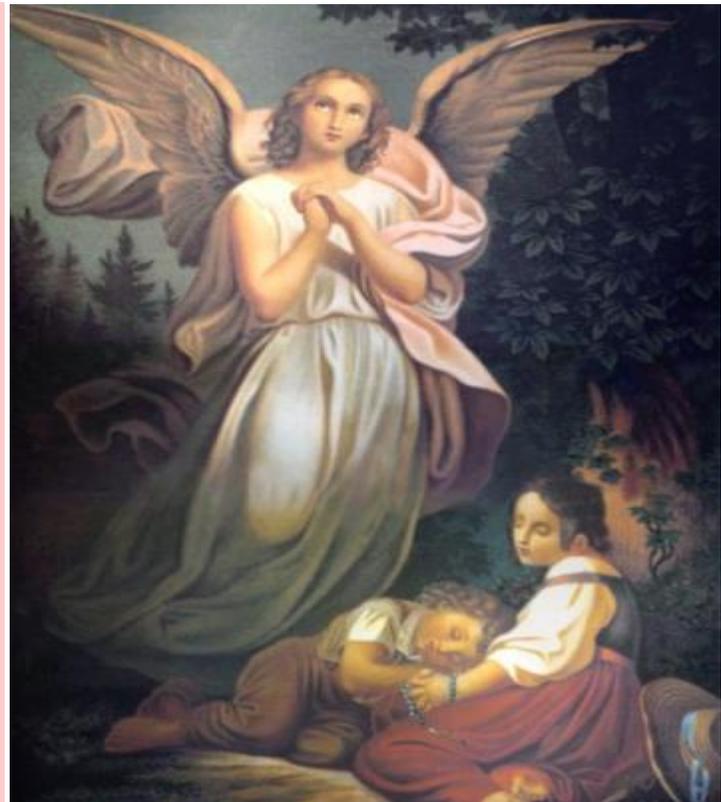
Our Saviour

"Rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters." (Psalm 69:14)

Yaweh ! My Lord God! I praise and glorify You! Yaweh! You who are the Source of all strength! I fall at Your Feet in adoration. Yaweh! You are the most merciful One ! My God ! May I receive mercy in Your sight. Save me O God. I am drowned neck-deep in flood waters. Lift me up and save me O Lord God ! Lord will my family fall into the deep pit of cog mire? Will I get drowned into the deepest pit? Lord! save me. Several are the troubles, tight corners, and tortures that I face. Talks oozing with insults. There is no promise of life in the house where I was born. There is no safety in the dwelling I have gone to !

**Lord keep me safe from those who hate me. Lord look upon my family! My husband , my wife, my children, my parents my relatives, my friends, preserve them all O Lord.
 Lord may the raging waters never engulf me. May the deepest oceans never swallow me up.
 You who pay heed to the voice and the wants of the poor! How long am I to still long for You?
 Lord! For how long will I lay crying bitterly like this ! Lord answer me!
 Lord turn towards me in Your great mercy and love. Preserve me O Lord!
 Lord my family should flourish in Your Presence and within Your glance! Save me !
 Thank You ! Lord! Thank You for paying heed to my voice!
 AMEN ! ALLELUIA !**

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.



BELOVED IN CHRIST...



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love ”

(Ephesians 3:17)

On the 20th of last month, MOTHER MARY gave a message to all the families of the world, through the visionary Ivan Dragicevic. The families are getting destroyed through out the world. Mother Mary had warned us that the main reason for this destruction is that the evil one has penetrated into all the families and is causing immense harm.

Mother had warned us saying, “Do not allow the evil one to enter your families.” It spoils the sanctity of married life and marital relationship by causing us to behave with evil- mindedness, selfishness, and ego. By leaning on to worldly thinking, worldly knowledge and to think that I am just like the others in the world.

All those in the family, join together and pray. Read the Word of God and meditate upon It. Parents and children pray the Rosary together with one heart, seeking the intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love. May the grace of our Lord and the embrace of our Blessed Mother remain always with you. I wish you joy.”

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.,

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WHEN DOES FAMILY LIFE BECOME STEADY ?



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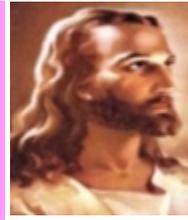
A letter written by some one a few days ago: "There are several problems in our house. My husband belongs to a different religion. He was fine earlier. But now he does not allow me to go anywhere. He does not even allow me to go to Church for Prayer. My sister-in-law gives constant trouble. Although my mother-in-law is with us, yet she is of absolutely no use. My husband is educated but he does not have a permanent job. We are running a family business. My husband treats me like a business partner. He does not treat me like a wife... Please pray for us." *When will this family be settled steadily and when will they live as husband and wife?*

Another person told me of his woes and asked for prayers. " I obtained money from several people promising to buy them land, and I gave this money to a friend. The friend who got the money is trust-worthy., and I believed him to be a friend. Several months rolled by and now many years have gone past too. None of the documents to buy the land are signed yet. It has been blocked in the government offices. Those who made their payments to me use abusive language and threaten me. The one who received the money has also squandered it all. Now I am the sufferer lost in despair. There is no peace in my house! I am unable to look at my wife's face! Where can I go? Please pray that true peace reigns in my family." *When will this family lead a steady life? When will peace take over here?*

Similar letters and couples who narrate their problems and request prayers are growing by the day. We can think of family life in various angles as problems of relationship between husband and wife, financial crisis within the family, problems relating to the relatives of the family and so on. There was a Retreat conducted at 'Queen of Angels' Retreat Centre' in the first week of last month (July) for the married couples, under the title, " New life for the couples." About forty families participated in the Retreat. They participated in the Retreat in solitude, in groups, in deep prayer and meditation. They sat in several groups and shared their life experiences with the others. A question was placed before them for study. "What are the situations in which fights erupt? In what circumstance and for what reasons does the peace within the family get disturbed?"



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About two hours was given for each of them to share their experiences. They divided themselves into four groups and shared their experiences.

I then met each group separately. When a person shares his trouble, you can see the resurgence of his feelings, his inner hurt feelings all expressed through his facial expressions. When someone shares a problem, you can notice that the person who shares and the one who listens get involved with the situation.

After sharing, they assembled together for a common meeting. Some of the important problems were discussed then.

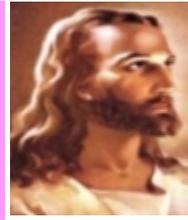
1. The affection of yore has vanished!

" Before marriage the husband behaved with the wife in a very loving manner. The wedding took place against several oppositions and in a very grand scale. I was then 19 years old. Now I am 39. I am now a mother of two. I do not have the same physical strength, that I had then. The husband who was so fond of me then, now gets irritated when ever he sees me. All the affection seems bitter. If I were to ask why he got irritated there would be a violent earthquake and a big tornado in the house."

2. Bereft of money !

There is a tight corner for finances in the family. On the wedding day the bride's parents conducted the wedding with all the expected dowry. The husband who got married too behaved very well. Years rolled by and they gave birth to three children. In the mean time, unable to repay the debts he had incurred before marriage, the husband pawned his wife's jewels. Interests got piled up. They were pushed to the extent of borrowing money on their house. Hence, even on festive occasions, the wife is unable to wear jewels or dress up well, the children are unable to wear nice clothing and deck themselves. If the wife attempts to reason out on this, a big turbulent wave sweeps through the house. How can we live in peace within the house? Whose limitations are to be shared, with whom?

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3. A villain called dowry !

Another widely prevalent problem. There are four children in the house. The first two are girls. They have attained marriageable age. There should be a settlement done for marriage soon. Both have completed their collegiate education and are earning a fat sum of money. So the family is on the look out for suitable boys for their daughters. Although suitors come in from various sources, yet nothing seems to be taking definite shape! The Reason being, they are unable to meet with the demands of dowry.



The family that was erstwhile all peaceful, suddenly realizes that they are being attacked by a monstrous evil. Not only for one child, where are they to go in order to find required money to settle both the children? Hence both the girls are growing older by the day. Age is showing up on the face of the elder one. One man who came to see told them, " I shall return next week. But months have passed since and he has not returned. In the mean time the joy that was seen on the faces of the parents has vanished. At the same time, these young girls, lose heart, lose the freshness on their faces and become depressed. When will joy return to this family?

4. Selfishness that ruins relationships !

Another family. About twenty years have gone by since they first started family life together. The children have also reached their teen years. They possess a house, they earn well, are well-to do! But the children have grown vexed, seeing their parents fight often. The children keep away from everything on listening to the harsh exchange of words between their parents. When the wife speaks in a demeaning manner of the husband's house and when the husband speaks low of the wife's family, their angry voices burst through the silence and reach the ears of their neighbours. The stubbornness and ego that has taken possession of the two of them, completely destroys the peace within the family. A heart that is unwilling to give in and a deep-seated enmity within, develops a deep seated hatred within the family and sows poison into the hearts of the children. Therefore the families on both sides are pushed to consider the other with a feeling of enmity. Thus they are bereft of any feeling to be of help to the other.

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When will the selfishness disappear and give rise to seeking the welfare of the other in the family? When will " I " get abolished and pave the way for "us" within the family ? When will the accusing tongue give way for peace within the family?

Some other family problems were also discussed within the groups. When the husband or the wife becomes fully inclined towards their parental house saying that all that their parents do is good and accuse the in-laws as the ones who have come to seek a living in their house, such thoughts create a rift in family life in the long run. It is not as if they murder each other, but they are completely devoid of the large-heartedness in bearing up with one another. In such a family bereft of selflessness and concern, they lead wounded lives as birds that have lost their feather. They are those who do not possess the agility and the ability to soar higher in flight, rising above trivial situations and are therefore stunted in their all-round growth. Some others shared their family situations, as having an abundance of agony and trouble of heart. The husband's drinking habits in a big gang. In some other families, they betray of one another and maintain illegal liaisons.

Further more in some families, situations where the members are very sickly and are unable to give them proper treatments due to financial constraint. In some others, earnings are far beyond their actual needs and they are still filled with greed! This spoils peace. In such a situation where the families today face so many troubles what is to be said about a stabilized family life? What are we to ponder over in the light of Jesus and in the light of the teachings of the Catholic Church? Those who meditated during the Retreat on Family life, for three days, prayed on the first day that they be freed from the inner hurt feelings. They prayed in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for three hours. But before these three hours of prayer, each of made an examination of conscience and meditated on What the teachings of the Church are and What the teachings of Jesus are. Each of them looked into their personal life. This filled their hearts with great solace and freedom. What are the teachings of the Church that we learnt from Jesus? Family relationship is the most superior and sublime of human relationships! Family life is the basic foundation of the society! When the family relationship is stable, then the societal relationships would also prove to be stable. This is the basic truth of the Christian family relationship! This is the truth that the Bible teaches us.

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1. THE TEACHING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

This basic truth has been revealed to us in the Book of Genesis. God planned for family life, saying, " It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (Genesis 2:18) As was planned, God took a rib bone and formed a woman. He gave her to him as his helper. He accepted her and said, " This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:23) Thus God formed their relationship as "Husband-wife." This relationship is divine. This is a creation of God. "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) The Church reiterates to this date, that it is this teaching which is the basis for family life.

2. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TIMES...

A) While Jesus was preaching to the multitudes, a Pharisee placed a family problem as a big problem before The Lord. He posed a question thus to the Lord. Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any account? The background of this very question was, the problems that were prevailing within the families, isn't it? The physical weakness of the wife, or disease, the problems within the family, the rift caused within the family relationships, and several other such reasons can be cited. The physical and the mental tortures and ill treatments could be taken to consideration. Is it proper for the husband and the wife to cite such reasons and live separated lives? They brought such problems to Jesus even during those times. This was the lesson taught by Jesus: He asked them, 'Haven't you read in the Scriptures that God created them male and female even in the beginning of creation? And He said, " For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' (Matthew 19:5-6)

As the families faced different kinds of problems even during the time of Jesus, that such a question also arose. Leading separated lives is not about regularizing family life. This is just about staying removed from the problem. Keeping this basic teaching before his eyes, St. Paul taught mainly for the Early Christians as the target audience. Thus while writing about the discipline meant for family life, he wrote several precious words.

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Live in supplication to one another in fear of Christ. Married women, live in obedience to your husbands as you would to God. For Just as Christ is the Head of the Church, so is the husband the head of his wife. Christ is the Redeemer of the Body , the Church. Just as the Church is obedient to Christ, so too should the wife be obedient to the husband in all matters. " Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25)

B) St.Paul's teachings still remain the teachings of the Church. Jesus Christ offered Himself up on the Cross as a sacrificial offering, by shedding His Blood and made the Church, which is humanity, the humanity of the faithful as His own. It is the Sacrificial Blood of Jesus that produces before Him, the Church, as a blemish less and spotless Bride. Hence it was the sacrifice of Jesus that moulded the holy, and beautiful Bride, the Church. St.Paul places this sacrifice before himself and stipulates the discipline and rules of married life.

Just as the love and sacrifice of Jesus moulded the family the "Christian Church", so too should the discipline of "Husband-wife" be founded on sacrifice and love. And this is the principle of the Church. The meaning is that the husband represents Christ the leader and the wife represents the Church which is the body. Just as there is one body for the head and one head for the body, so too the husband and the wife remain one life and one body.

Just as there is one head for one body and as there is a body below the head, the husband and wife will remain inseparable and true to each other all their life. In good times and in bad they will remain steadfast and true to one another, and live as witnesses to "Christ - Church" in sacrifice and in love. When love and sacrifice reign in a family, sufferings and troubles cannot destroy the family. Selfishness and arrogance will not grow there as weeds. The family life will march toward holiness.

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C) St. Paul calls for a deeper meditation of the family life. Jesus sanctified and made the Church His own by The Sacrificial offering of Himself on the Cross. Jesus raises the human race which lies degraded and low, by sanctifying it and Jesus accepts it as His spotless Bride and as His own Body. “ In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the Church, because we are members of his body.” (Ephesians 5:28-30) When one takes to heart this meditational preaching of St. Paul, when he/she understands its deeper meaning, it will be clear that marital relationship is not a mere social contract. When a person is either buying or selling land, he usually signs on documents before witnesses and either takes or receives money.

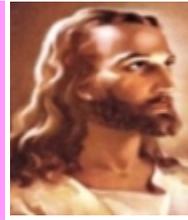
If they so wish, they would also sell and obtain money for the land that they had just bought. They will then sign on new documents. They will then demolish the bought house and build a new one. They will again sell the newly constructed house. These exchanges will all occur through contracts. Married life is not a thing that keeps exchanging on contract basis. Marriage is a divine relationship! And St. Paul calls this relationship “ Christ’s Church” and presents this as the basic tenet or law. “ *The two will become one flesh.*” (Ephesians 5:31)

D) ONE BODY

“This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.” (Ephesians 5:32)

What does St. Paul keep before his eyes, when he writes this. The Greek, ‘Mysterion’ is referred to as ‘Mystery’ in English. That is , it refers to the relationship between God and the ordinary human beings. This is beyond all human comprehension. God is far away, and we are unworthy even to stand close to Him. In such a case, God not only creates man in His own Image and places him in close proximity to Him, but that He made him His own Body, has never been understood or researched in any scientific lab by any scientist. This can be made possible only with the wisdom of the Powerful and Holy God. This Divine wisdom is indeed a mystery.

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We realize from the Book of Genesis that God made man in His own Image. (Genesis 1:26-27)The human being who was created in the Image of God, lived as man and woman in equality, as bone of the other's bone, as flesh of the other's flesh in God's Presence.

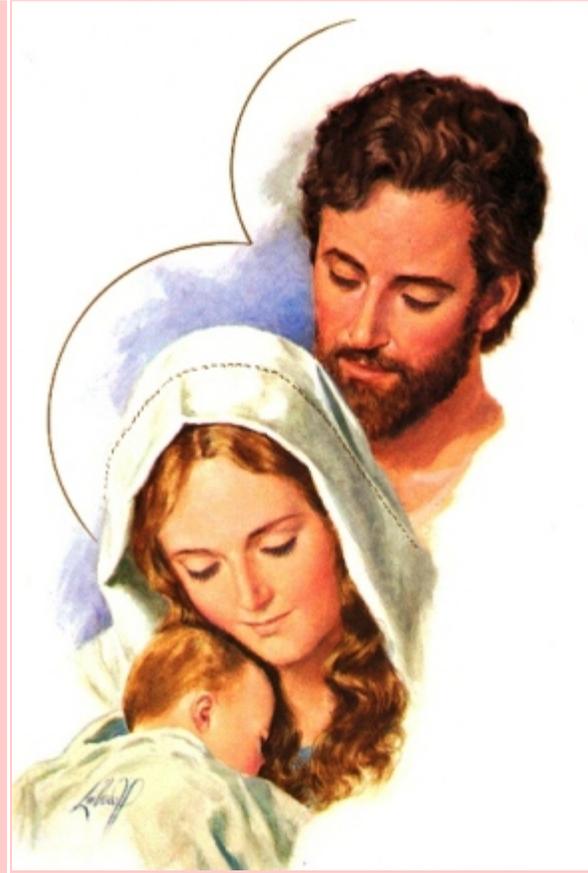
But they were pushed from the Presence of God due to their sins.

“ He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:24)

Thus, it was inorder to set right the destroyed family life, that Jesus Christ out of His sacrificial offering , not only called humanity to God's Presence , He also transforms us into His own Body. The Body of Jesus belongs to the Heavenly Father! Hence those who are enjoined as husband and wife will be one with the heavenly Father.

“ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”(John 14:20)

Thus when the husband and wife are joined in Christ they can never be separated from the heavenly Father on any account. This is a divine Mystery. This is not a matter for research. Marriage is the foundation of sacrificial living.



E) Polishing the teachings of St. Paul, the Evangelist John is inviting us to a deep meditation.

Jesus Christ is the fullness of life to us the faithful. He therefore calls us to live united with Jesus Christ.

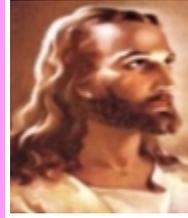
“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” (John 15:4)

Inorder that He may always live with us, Jesus transforms us as the body of His Body and as the blood of His Blood. By giving Himself up as our Food, and drink, He enjoins Himself up to us.

“ For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.” (John 6:55-56)

Adam looked at his wife and only uttered that she was the flesh of his flesh and the bone of his bone.

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But Jesus looks at His Church- a faithful, a person, a brother or sister and says, "He/she is the flesh of my flesh, He/she is the bone of my bone." So saying, He calls us.

Hence each family is called to understand this mystery. Taste and see that the Lord is good ! To understand this mystery, we need a little time and patience. Shunning the thoughts of the world aside, think only the thoughts related to God. Meditate on how precious and uplifting is the call and the pride of belonging to God. Remove the worldly garb and clothe yourselves with Christ. Then your family will live steadfast in God's Presence.

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J

